

## Quarterly Report May – June 2014

# Madara

## “MILK” in Hausa

*Funded by USAID / Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)*



*Tree planting demonstration (Acacia radiana) as part of CWF activities in Tidiba*

COUNTRY CONTACT	HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	PROJECT SUMMARY
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## 1. Executive Summary

The MADARA program, or “milk” in Hausa, will build on the achievements of the OFDA-funded PASTORAL I/II programs (March 2011-September 2013) and Wadata Makiyaya (June 2013-June 2014). Madara aims at enhancing food security and strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable households in the Filingué Department, in the Tillabéri region of Niger. The program will meet the early recovery needs and rebuild the livelihoods of 21,000 beneficiaries (3,000 households) for 22 months. This report presents the activities that were conducted between May and June 2014:

- ✓ Identification and validation of 22 target villages in the commune of Filingué for program intervention, in coordination with the sub-regional committees for the prevention and management of food crises (CSRPGCA<sup>1</sup>), local authorities and traditional leaders;
- ✓ Targeting of 1,500 very poor households from 9 villages based on the Household Economy Approach to participate in Cash for Work (CFW) activities;
- ✓ Identification and selection of 7 communal pasturelands to be rehabilitated, totaling 238 hectares;
- ✓ Training of 95 group leaders and surveyors in pastureland rehabilitation techniques, including half-moon construction, by service agents of the Ministry of Rural Engineering;
- ✓ Training of trainers for 170 CFW participants in tree planting and grass seeding of half-moons by service agents of the Ministry of Environment;
- ✓ Training of 150 members of community grazing land “surveillance committees” on pastureland management in coordination with the village-level land tenure committees (COFOB);
- ✓ Distribution of 3,008 small tools and materials for CFW activities in the 7 selected sites;
- ✓ Rehabilitation of 38 hectares of degraded pastureland through the construction of 11,856 half-moons;
- ✓ Creation and training of 9 community complaint committees composed of 18 women and 27 men;
- ✓ Payment of \$17,059 to 1,500 CFW participants for the first week of work; and,
- ✓ Completion of a baseline survey using a sample of 197 households in 10 villages of the target area.

## 2. Program Overview

Large parts of the Nigerien population have been affected by severe food insecurity in the last decade, particularly 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2012, after a combination of drought, irregular rainfall and flooding decimated crops and forage. The pattern repeated itself in 2013 with the early arrival of the rains, followed by a prolonged period of drought that negatively affected both the production of cereals, as well as the regeneration of natural fodder. The majority of the Filingué department consists of agro-pastoralists who depend on both cereal farming and livestock for their livelihoods and was among those most affected. An estimated 23.4% of the population in this department was classified as moderately food insecure in November 2013, and risks increasing during the lean season of 2014<sup>2</sup>. The MADARA program is designed to help food insecure households meet their immediate needs and rebuild their livelihoods, while simultaneously strengthening the dairy sector value chain to improve availability and access to nutritious milk products. The MADARA program aims to work with communities to respond to the need for: 1) Opportunities to rebuild savings and livelihoods following successive crises; 2) Sustainable rehabilitation of pastureland to improve access to fodder; 3) Improved access to nutritious animal feed during the dry and lean season; 4) Strengthened animal health, animal nutrition and quality and quantity of milk production; 5) Increased availability and accessibility of local dairy products, and prioritization of dairy products for household consumption, in order to contribute to improved nutrition and dietary diversity; and 6) Improved hygiene in dairy production, and sanitary conditions in local markets.

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<sup>1</sup> Dispositif sous-régional pour la Prévention et Gestion des Crises Alimentaires

<sup>2</sup>GoN “Enquête Nationale”, p. 3.

### 3. Performance Summary

#### Award-Level Beneficiaries:

Cumulative Period Targeted		Reporting Period Reached		Cumulative Period Reached	
Total	IDP	Total	IDP	Total	IDP
21,000 (3,000*)	0	10,500 (1,500*)	0	10,500 (1,500*)	0

\* Total beneficiaries is based on an average of seven members per household; in parentheses is the # of households

<b>SECTOR #1</b> Agriculture and Food Security	<i>Objective: Protect and enhance productive performance of existing animal assets to improve animal nutrition and strengthen dairy production</i>				
Geographic Area (s)	Filingué department, Tillabéri region, Niger				
Beneficiaries Targeted	7,000 individuals (1,000 households)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Reporting Period)	0				
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	0				
Subsector: Livestock					
<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>Disaggregated</b>	<b>Applicable</b>	<b>Cumulative Value Targeted</b>	<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>	<b>Cumulative Reached</b>
Number of animals benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	N/A	Yes	28,000	0	0
Number of people benefiting from livestock activities, disaggregated by sex	Male	Yes	3500	0	0
	Female	Yes	3500	0	0

In collaboration with the local authorities, the Ministry of Environment, and communal land management committees (COFOCOM), seven (7) degraded communal pasturelands were identified and selected to be rehabilitated through CFW activities. The selected sites total an area of 238 hectares. Rehabilitation works will improve access to natural fodder and help sustain milk production of communities from nine (9) villages in the commune of Filingué. The rehabilitation of three (3) of those sites was initiated under OFDA-funded Wadata Makiyaya. A total of 95 beneficiaries (20 surveyors and 75 group leaders) from the nine villages involved in CFW activities were trained by service agents of the Ministry of Rural Engineering in various land restoration and rehabilitation techniques, including half-moon construction to capture rain fall and slow its runoff so as to prevent erosion, increase soil moisture and promote plant growth. Additional training was provided by service agents of the Ministry of Environment to 170 CFW participants that will train the members of their working group in tree planting, grass seeds collection and seeding in the constructed half-moons. The community will contribute by adding organic manure to constructed half-moons to support the growth of natural vegetation and trees that will be planted as part of the CFW activities. During the training, 84 *Acacia radiata* seedlings, an agro-pastoral species used for animal fodder, were planted in the sites under rehabilitation.

The program also distributed 700 shovels, 700 picks, 800 rubber gloves, 800 dust masks, and eight (8) 100 meter ropes to beneficiaries to conduct rehabilitation work. The management committee of each group of 20 CFW participants is responsible for the management and efficient use of the tools in each site. During this reporting period, 38 hectares of communal pastureland were already rehabilitated through the construction of 11,856 half-moons (see table 1). In addition, the MADARA program trained 150 members of community

grazing land “surveillance committees” in pastureland management. Those committees will ensure sustainable management of rehabilitated communal land and mitigate conflicts around communal grazing lands in close coordination with the village-level land tenure commissions (COFOB) established and trained as part of the Wadata Makiyaya program.



*CFW participants' training and tree planting in constructed half-moons in Toukounous Arzika*

**Table 1: Total and rehabilitated area per CFW site and number of participants per village**

CFW site	Total area (ha) to be rehabilitated	Villages	Number of CFW participants	Rehabilitated area (ha)
Banguir	51	Banguir Barébari	120	3.1
		Banguir kourfayawa	120	3.1
		Banguir Bpuzayé	80	2
Toukounous Arzika	35	Toukounous Arzika	220	5.6
Toukounous Station	57	Toukounous Station	360	9.2
Tidiba	35	Tidiba	220	5.6
Tarkassa	35	Tarkassa	220	5.6
Rounfou	9	Rounfou	60	1.5
Tanfadara	16	Tanfadara	100	2.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238</b>		<b>1,500</b>	<b>38.2</b>

SECTOR #2 Economic Recovery and Market Systems		Objective: Restore livelihoods of vulnerable households and improve access to affordable dairy products for communities in the Filingué department through strengthening of the dairy value chain			
Geographic Area (s)		Filingué department, Tillabéri region, Niger			
Beneficiaries Targeted		21,000 individuals (3,000 households)			
Beneficiaries Reached (Reporting Period)		10,500 individuals (1,500 households)			
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)		10,500 individuals (1,500 households)			
Subsector 2.1 Livelihoods restoration					
INDICATORS	Disaggregated	Applicable	Cumulative Value Targeted	Reporting Period Reached	Cumulative Reached



Number of people assisted through livelihoods restoration activities, disaggregated by sex	Male	No	1575*	0	0
	Female	Yes	1575*	0	0
Percentage of beneficiaries reporting their livelihoods restored within three to six months after receiving support	N/A	Yes	90%	0	0
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	N/A	Yes	\$7,500	0	0
<b>Subsector 2.2 New Livelihoods Development</b>					
<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>Disaggregated</b>	<b>Applicable</b>	<b>Cumulative Value Targeted</b>	<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>	<b>Cumulative Reached</b>
Number of people assisted through new livelihoods development activities, disaggregated by sex	Male	Yes	700**	0	0
	Female	Yes	700**	0	0
Number of new MSEs started	N/A	Yes	200	0	0
Percentage of people, by sex, continuing in their new livelihoods by program completion	Male	Yes	90%	0	0
	Female	Yes	90%	0	0
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities	N/A	Yes	\$62,000	0	0
<b>Subsector 2.3 Temporary Employment</b>					
<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>Disaggregated</b>	<b>Applicable</b>	<b>Cumulative Value Targeted</b>	<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>	<b>Cumulative Reached</b>
Number of people employed through Cash-for-Work activities, disaggregated by sex	Male	Yes	1,050	1,086	1,086
	Female	Yes	450	414	414
Average total USD amount per person earned through CFW activities	N/A	Yes	\$134	\$11	\$11
Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities.	N/A	Yes	\$201,000	\$17,059	\$17,059

\*450 women are targeted for this activity. With an average household size of 7, we estimate approximately 1575 males and 1575 females will benefit.

\*\*60 men and 140 women will directly participate in new livelihoods development, to benefit their households of approximately 700 males and 700 females total.

### Subsector 2.2: Livelihoods Restoration

The MADARA program identified and initiated discussions with key actors of the dairy sector value chain at the local and national levels. Those included the forum of pastoralists in the Filingué department, the directorate of milk production of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Toukounous livestock research center. The latter promotes fodder collection and conservation techniques, animal health, and genetic improvement

of cattle breeds in the Tillabéri region. Potential areas of collaboration with each actor were discussed and partnerships will be formalized in the next quarter.

### Subsector 2.3: Temporary Employment

At the end of the reporting period, 1,500 households from nine (9) villages participated in four (4) days of CFW activities on average. Work will continue in July and beneficiaries will complete 25 days each, earning a total of 32,500 XOF (\$68). 700 participants already participated in one month of CFW activities under the OFDA-funded Wadata Makiyaya program. MADARA selected an additional 800 very poor households based on the Household Economy Approach and in coordination with local leaders. The lists of selected beneficiaries were validated during village assemblies to ensure the transparency of the targeting process. The cash earned will help vulnerable households in the Filingué department to meet their immediate needs at the end of the lean season and maintain their animal assets to rebuild their livelihoods. The government authorities at both the community and department levels confirmed that work continuation in July will not impede farming activities as the arrival of rain has been delayed this year, and because only one member per household is involved. Activities will continue after harvest to support the development of rehabilitated pastureland through tree planting and grass seeding and rehabilitation of additional degraded land.



As part of Mercy Corps' commitment to accountability, community complaints committees were elected in the nine villages. Each committee is composed of 5 members (3 men and 2 women) who work independently from village leaders. These were trained on how to collect and report complaints to Mercy Corps' accountability focal points and respond to complainants. A request was already made to pay CFW participants on a weekly basis to allow beneficiaries to purchase food during the month of Ramadan when market prices increase, which has already been put in place by the MADARA program.

*Payment of CFW participants in Toukounous Arzika*

<b>SECTOR #3</b> Nutrition	<i>Objective: Improve uptake of key Infant and Young Child Feeding and optimal maternal nutrition practices</i>				
Geographic Area (s)	Filingué department, Tillabéri region, Niger				
Beneficiaries Targeted	21,000 individuals (3,000 households)				
Beneficiaries Reached (Reporting Period)	0				
Beneficiaries Reached (Cumulative)	0				
Subsector: Infant and Young Child Feeding and Behavior Change					
<b>INDICATORS</b>	<b>Disaggregated</b>	<b>Applicable</b>	<b>Cumulative Value Targeted</b>	<b>Reporting Period Reached</b>	<b>Cumulative Reached</b>

Number and percentage of infants 0-<6 months of age who are exclusively breastfed	N/A	Yes	700 (40%)	0	0
Number and percentage of children 6-<24 months of age who receive foods daily from 4 or more food groups (to achieve minimum dietary diversity)	N/A	Yes	1,500 (40%)	0	0
Number of people receiving behavior change interventions, by sex and age (0-11 months, 1-4 years, 5-14 years, 15-49 years, 50-60 years, 60+ years)	Age	Female	Male		
	0-11months	510	450	0	0
	1-4 years	2,500	2,200	0	0
	5-14 years	5,000	4,500	0	0
	15-49 years	3,400	3,000	0	0
	50-60 years	340	300	0	0
	60+ years	320	280	0	0

During the reporting period, a series of meetings were conducted and discussions initiated with the Ministry of Health and Nutrition. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed early in the next quarter detailing their involvement in the program's nutrition activities, notably the training of mother leaders and community health/nutrition promoters in Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and Essential Nutrition Action (ENA) practices.

## 4. Monitoring & Evaluation

During this first quarter of the MADARA program, Mercy Corps' M&E department prepared the M&E plan and designed and conducted the program's baseline evaluation using a sample of 197 households in 10 villages. The baseline survey confirms the findings of the government-led assessment conducted in November 2013, noting a deterioration in food security levels. As the lean season progresses, half of households in the Filingué department are using four or more strategies to cope with food stock reduction and a quarter currently experiences moderate (24%) or severe hunger (1.5%). The nutritional needs of children are far from being met with only 3% of surveyed children aged between 6 and 23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet. Animal husbandry is the main activity for the majority of the population with herd sizes ranging from up to 5 cows for small owners to over 41 for large livestock owners. A large proportion of pastoralists (81%) purchase animal feed to supplement the feeding needs of their animals during the lean season, but access to animal feed banks and veterinary products suppliers has been identified as a constraint by the population. Milk is consumed by three quarters of surveyed households. The value of sales is however very low as producers face difficulties in collecting, conserving and selling milk during the rainy season when milk production peaks. The MADARA program will work closely with pastoralists and other actors in the dairy sector value chain to address these shortfalls through its integrated package of activities.

## 5. Coordination

Mercy Corps will support the development of 200 micro-entrepreneurs in the dairy sector value chain in partnership with private actor ASUSU SA. During the reporting period, a series of meetings were organized to clarify each partner's roles and responsibilities and plan joint implementation. ASUSU SA will support micro-entrepreneurs to develop their business plans, provide them with training in business and financial management, and mentor and coach them to ensure the success of their income generating activity. A partnership agreement will be signed with ASUSU SA early in the next quarter.

The MADARA program worked closely with local authorities, traditional leaders, and the relevant government technical services to ensure a smooth program startup and implementation. We coordinated with local and international NGOs (VSF-Belgium, SNV, Karkara, and AREN), relevant government ministries, government-led initiatives and UN agencies, particularly the FAO, working in the program area of intervention or the dairy sector to share lessons learned, harmonize approaches, and identify potential areas of collaboration. Mercy Corps also participated in coordination meetings at the regional and national levels through the 3N initiative<sup>3</sup>, meetings organized by OCHA and the food security cluster.

## **6. Conclusion and Upcoming Activities**

Mercy Corps undertook preparation this quarter for an efficient program start up and implementation following logistical, financial, and administrative guidelines. The majority of the staff was recruited, the baseline assessment conducted and program activities initiated. This included the targeting of 22 villages in the Filingué commune for program interventions, start of CFW activities in 7 sites and rehabilitation of 38 hectares of degraded pastureland, and identification and initiation of discussions with relevant local and national actors in the dairy sector to develop collaboration and support efforts to strengthen the dairy value chain as a whole.

The next quarter will focus on the following activities:

- Continued rehabilitation of 238 hectares of degraded pastureland with 1,500 participants via CFW activities;
- Establish links with the community grazing land “surveillance committees” trained this quarter and the village-level land tenure commissions formed and trained as part of the Wadata Makiyaya program;
- Development of curriculum and initiation of training of 1,000 agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in fodder management and animal health and nutrition in coordination with the Ministry of Livestock and the Toukounous Ranch research center;
- Identification and capacity assessment of women’s dairy cooperatives in the Filingué department;
- Selection of 200 micro-entrepreneurs that will receive the first tranche of funding for their business and identification of their training needs;
- Training of micro-entrepreneurs in business and financial management and business plans design in coordination with ASUSU SA;
- Disbursement of the first tranche of funding and mentoring to meet the objectives of micro-entrepreneurs’ business plans; and,
- Selection and training of mother leaders and community health/nutrition promoters in IYCF and ENA practices.

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<sup>3</sup> Government of Niger « Nigeriens Feed Nigeriens » initiative, adopted in April 2012, and aiming at contributing to food security and reduced malnutrition of the Nigerien population and supporting their participation in national production and livelihoods improvement